

comprising the amino acid sequence as set forth as SEQ ID NOs: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, or 25.

D<sup>2</sup> 3. (amended) The protein of claim 1, comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

B<sup>2</sup> 4. (reiterated) The protein of claim 1, further comprising a signal peptide polyhistidine, and a T-cell helper epitope.

5. (amended) The protein of claim 1, wherein the stages are one or more of sporozoite stage, liver stage, blood stage or sexual stage.

6. (reiterated) The protein of claim 5, comprising at least one antigenic epitope from each of the sporozoite, liver, blood, and sexual stages of *Plasmodium falciparum* life cycle.

B<sup>3</sup> D<sup>3</sup> 10. (amended) A protein composition comprising the recombinant protein of claim 1, in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

#### REMARKS

By this amendment, pending claims 7-9, 11 and 12 are canceled as drawn to non-elected Groups, and claim 2 of elected Group I is canceled. Applicants expressly reserve the right to pursue protection of any or all of the subject matter in the canceled claims in a subsequent application.

In addition, pending claims 1, 3 and 10 are amended herein. Claim 1 was amended to incorporate limitations of claim 2. Support for this amendment can be found in claim 2, and in SEQ ID NOs: 3-25 of the accompanying sequence listing. Claim 3 was amended to remove the terms "fragments" and "conservative substitutions." Claim 10 was amended to change its dependency to claim 1 and to provide antecedent basis for the term "composition." No new matter has been added by these amendments.